

REMARKS

Claims 2-11, 13-18, 20-22, 24-29, 31, 33, and 35-38 are pending in the application.

Claims 2-11, 13, 15, 17, 18, 20-22, 24, 28-29, 31, 33, and 35 stand rejected. Claims 26-27 and 37-38 are allowed. Claims 14, 16, 25, and 36 are objected to. Claims 13, 17-18, 24, 28-29, 31, 33, and 35 are being cancelled. No new matter is being introduced by way of this amendment.

Allowable Subject matter

Applicants note, with appreciation, that the Office Action on page 18, part 10 states, "Claims 26-27 and 37-38 are allowed."

Claim Objections

Claims 14, 16, 25, and 36 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Dependent Claim 14, which stands objected to, is being amended in the Claim Listing above to include all of the elements of independent Claim 13, which is being cancelled, accordingly.

Claims 2, 5, 7-9, and 16 are being amended in the Claim Listing above to depend from now amended Claim 14. Dependent claims 3-4, 6, 10-11, and 15 include all of the elements of now amended Claim 14 by way of their dependency.

Dependent Claim 16, which stands objected to, is being amended to now depend from Independent Claim 14.

Dependent Claim 25, which stands objected to, is being amended in the Claim Listing above to include all of the elements of independent Claim 24, which is being cancelled, accordingly.

Dependent Claim 20 is being amended in the Claim Listing above to depend from now amended Claim 25. Dependent Claims 21 and 22 include all of the elements of now amended Claim 25 by way of their dependency.

Claim 36, which stands objected to, is being amended in the Claim Listing above to include all of the elements of independent Claim 35, which is being cancelled, accordingly.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 2-11, 14-16, 20-22, 25-27, and 36-38 are in condition for allowance.

No new matter is being introduced by way of these amendments. Applicants have amended the claims as described above for the purposes of expediting prosecution. Applicants reserve the right to re-file the claims as originally filed or previously amended in a continuing application.

Claim Rejections

Claim 28 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

In view of the foregoing amendments in the Claim Listing and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is now moot.

Claims 2-11, 13, 15, 17, 20-22, 24, and 28-35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Albert et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,650,641 (hereinafter “Albert”), further in view of Jindal et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,092,178 (hereinafter “Jindal”), further in view of Bhatia et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,563,824 (hereinafter “Bhatia”).

In view of the foregoing amendments in the Claim Listing and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is now moot.

Claim 18 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Albert further in view of Jindal further in view of Boden et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,717,949 (hereinafter “Boden”).

In view of the foregoing amendments in the Claim Listing and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is now moot.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims that will be pending after entry of this Amendment, Claims 2-11, 14-16, 20-22, 25-27, and 36-38, are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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